GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1598
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
SHALE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION POLICY
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy on shale oil and gas exploration has been taken up by the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof:

(c) whether the Government has also conducted any assessment to ascertain the impact of shale oil and gas exploration on the environment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) and (b). The Government has, on 14.10.2013, notified the policy guidelines for exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in their onland Petroleum Exploration Lease (PEL) / Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) blocks awarded under the nomination regimes.

As per the policy, the NOCs will undertake a mandatory minimum work programme in a fixed time frame for shale gas and oil exploration and exploitation, so that there is optimum accretion and development of shale gas and oil resources.

(c) and (d). NOCs are engaged in exploration of Shale Gas and Oil. Under the first phase of assessment of shale gas and oil, exploration and exploitation, at present, 56 PEL/PML blocks (ONGC 50, and OIL 6) have been identified by NOCs.

ONGC has drilled one well where coring has been completed. In addition, ONGC has collected cores from another 7 wells. The Drilling and other operations for shale gas exploration are basically same as for any other conventional hydrocarbon reservoirs.